

Applicant: Thibault et al.
Application Serial No.: 09/841,371
Filing Date: April 24, 2001
Docket No.: P-4140/1P2P1
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REMARKS

Applicants respectfully submit this amendment in response to the Office Action. By this amendment, applicants have amended claims 1, 5, 6 and 7, and canceled claims 3 and 4. Thus, upon entry of this amendment, claims 1, 2 and 5-24 will be in the present application. Reconsideration of the application in view of this amendment is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of International Patent Application No. WO 97/39720 to Hellstrom et al. The Examiner also rejected claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the AAPA in view of Hellstrom et al. as applied to claims 1 and 2, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,561,555 to Miller.

The Examiner has stated that claims 11-24 are allowed. Finally, the Examiner has objected to claims 4-8 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The Examiner further stated that those claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By this amendment, applicants have amended claim 1 to include the limitations of claims 3 and 4.

Thus, applicants respectfully submit that all claims pending in the present application (i.e., claims 1, 2 and 5-24) are now in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the present application in view of this amendment and permit this application to proceed to issuance.

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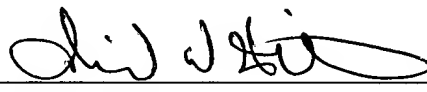
Applicant hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge the fees necessary in connection with this Amendment, including the fees necessary for the one (1) month extension of time, and any other fees necessary in connection with this application, to Deposit Account Number 02-1666.

Any questions concerning this application or amendment may be directed to the undersigned agent of applicant.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: September 15, 2004

By:


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